

monely passed, as were also addresses to the Admiralty and the East-India Company praying them to refuse to contract with truck masters. — The operative glass makers, convinced of the evil and inutility of strikes, have called a conference of operatives in all branches of the flint-glass trade, chiefly with the view of organizing a system for the removal of the surplus labour at present prostrating the manufacture, and taking other steps to benefit their condition generally. Birmingham, from its central situation, was chosen as the seat of the conference, which met on Thursday last to consult on these measures. The places represented, according to the local *Journal*, are London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, York, Bristol, Belfast, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Waterford, St. Helen's, Warrington, Tutbury, Longport, Rotherham, Catliffe, Haverton Hill (near Stockton-on-Tees), Dudley and Holly Hall, Skourbridge, Wordsley, Hunslett (near Leeds), and Worsbroughdale (near Barnsley). Various resolutions have been agreed to, and are to be reported. — One of the staple branches of the Sheffield manufactures — the table-knife makers — have been on strike for higher wages during the last five weeks. The object of the workmen is to obtain the rate of wages settled with the employers, and constantly paid from 1843 to 1847. In the latter year wages declined considerably, and they have not rallied with the general improvement of trade. "If a committee were appointed on each side," says our contemporary the *Sheffield Times*, "surely it would not be difficult to arrive at a just decision." This unhappy town requires a grand committee of all hands, masters and men, to turn over the new leaf which all there seem to have stood so long in need of turning.

#### SIGHTS AND SCENERY.

*Panorama of Constantinople and the Dardanelles.* — The Exhibition Theatre, adjoining the Polytechnic Institution in Regent-street, has been re-arranged to receive a panorama of Constantinople, the Bosphorus, and Dardanelles, by Mr. Thomas Allom, — a country at this moment an object of considerable attention. It is scarcely necessary to say to our readers who know Mr. Allom as an architect, that he has excelled most in the delineation of the buildings, and that the drawing of the panorama is superior to the colouring. The figures and landscape in parts seem to have been hurried, and we should suggest to the artist, now the work is done, to go over some of these portions again, so as to make all uniformly good. We should recommend, too, shutting out the daylight wholly, and an occasional variation of the artificial light, to increase the effect of particular passages. In the second part of this panorama, the Street of Tombs, the Mosque of Eyoub, the Bath, the Subterranean Palace, the Fountain of the Seraglio, St. Sophia, &c. are especially interesting and beautiful. The fidelity of the painting has been attested by those who know well the route, and we sincerely hope that the pains and ability of the artist will be acknowledged and rewarded by the public. Such works are of the greatest value in an educational point of view; the pleasant and ready means of getting knowledge which they offer should be taken advantage of by all.

*The Vanbrugh Club.* — We mentioned the doings of this club of young architect-actors last season with commendation and a well-meant caution. On the 18th inst. they played very ably "The School for Scandal" and "Charles XII." They know too well what they are about to suppose it was —

"From such deep rudiments as these  
Van is become, by due degrees,  
For building famed, and justly reckoned  
At court Vitruvius the Second."

The rogues have cleverly got the professor of architecture at the academy on their side, by quoting on their play-bill his remark that "when the drama has flourished, so have the sister fine arts, especially architecture." "Argals," perhaps they say, "if we aid the drama we help architecture."

*Vanhall Gardens.* — Amongst the novelties with which the proprietor of this ancient place of amusement for the Londoners is spiritedly seek-

ing to maintain the popularity they have once more acquired, is a new balloon, aspiring to the credit of having a will of its own. It is of an oblong shape, placed horizontally, and contains comparatively little gas. The car is furnished with an apparatus for working two large fans and a rudder, to enable it, according to the statement of its owner, Mr. Bell (evidently the reverse of a diving-Bell), to take the course that pleased it best, in spite of the wind. The wind, on trial, however, was not disposed to give in, and walked away with fans and rudder. We have often expressed a conviction, and still entertain it, that to navigate the air in opposition to the prevailing wind, the balloon must ascend by power, not levity. The decomposition of water in America, as reported, may involve the production of the power needed.

#### REPAIR OF ST. STEPHEN'S, WALBROOK.

As the parishioners of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, are about having their church repaired, I am induced to suggest that the building should undergo a thorough repair, and that they should not limit the outlay to the 1,000*l.* which has been voted to the repairs, for I hear a whispering, that comes from practical men who have examined the building, to the effect that it really requires double that amount to effectually and permanently complete the repairs. It is proposed, in the present instance, if I am correctly informed, and I think it is pretty near the mark, that the exterior is to have but a "lick and a promise." Surely this is wrong in such a building as the one under consideration, with its dome of difficult access, as regards the interior; and the fewer times scaffolding has to be raised there, so much the more will it suit the majority of parishioners, I guess. I wonder who would dream of beautifying the interior of any building for a year or two, and leave it liable to serious derangement by the roof undergoing a repair. Our building is superior to most parish churches; let us not fall into disgrace, not only with immediate neighbours but foreigners of architectural taste, all of whom visit the noble edifice, it being a model of its class; but let us take it up as a national monument of architecture, which it certainly is, and have it thoroughly restored and beautified.

The procedure of obtaining specifications and contracts is a curious one: the advertisement for surveyors' specifications is to include builder's tender therewith, but the advertisement contains no such information. The builder to have his own private surveyor to examine and direct his works, seems a somewhat novel mode in these days, and suggests doubts as to the wisdom of those concerned in the direction of the repairs.

A PARISHIONER.

#### RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

THE Ambergate line from Nottingham to Grantham was opened for passenger traffic on Monday in last week. It runs up the Midland line as far as Colwick, when it branches off to the right, and stretches through Ratcliffe, Bingham, Aslockton, Elton, Bottesford, and Sedgbrook, to Grantham. A viaduct crossing the lowlands near Ratcliffe, and a bridge crossing the Trent, are considerable works on the line. The contractors were Messrs. Wilson. — A branch line is about to be formed by the Eastern Counties Company from Shelford to Shepreth. The company, we perceive, has taken a hint from the Building Committee of the International Exhibition, by charging five guineas each set for lithographed copies of the plans and specifications of the proposed works. — The works on the Buckinghamshire line from Islip to Oxford (six miles) are shortly to be executed, as are those also of the Taw Vale line from Urmberleigh-bridge to Crediton, about twenty-six miles in length. The directors of this railway mean to work the line from Penthill to Crediton (thirty-six miles) by contract. — Mr. Brassey, it is said, has contracted to construct the Shrewsbury and Hereford line, with all necessary works complete, for 345,000*l.* including the electric telegraph. Mr. Brassey takes shares to the amount of 50,000*l.* — The third tube at the Britannia-bridge is now permanently fixed. The arrangements for floating the fourth and last tube have been completed, and Mr. Stephenson is expected immediately to superintend the operation, which will take place on the 26th. — The number of persons employed directly and indirectly by railway companies, says a con-

temporary, is about 43,000, and the quantity of land occupied by upwards of 4,000 miles of railway and stations is, say 50,000 acres. The whole of the local rates paid by railways amounts to above 340,000*l.* or 350,000*l.*, of which nearly 300,000*l.* is the produce of the rate upon the lines of railway (viz. about 40,000 acres), altogether exclusive of the stations and buildings. — A model of a new railway gate has been exhibited at the Mechanics' Institution, Lincoln, by Mr. Carver, of that city. It is said to possess the peculiar advantage of enabling eight gates to be opened by a single movement, and closed by a reverse movement. The idea seems very much like one long since suggested in *THE BUILDER*. — "Nearly all the great roads of France," says another contemporary, "are to be bordered by trees, by a late order of the Ministry. If the slopes on the English railways were planted with beech, lilac, mountain-ash, guelder-rose, acacia, and other ornamental trees of moderate growth, it would much relieve the monotony of railway travelling." — *BUILDER* again. — Among the American novelties is a contrivance by Mr. Cunningham, of Reading, Pennsylvania, to get rid of the dust which accompanies railway travelling. By means of a fan at the top of the carriage, worked by strap from the axle-trees, a continued succession of jets of air is thrown through a slit across the carriage windows. As the valves can be connected or disconnected at pleasure, the currents of air are under complete control. Six to eight carriages may be connected by flexible hose with such an apparatus, and the whole fitted up, it is said, for about 25 dollars. Besides arresting dust, the temperature of the carriages in summer might also be comfortably cooled and regulated through invisible sheet-air windows, such as these. We would recommend them to the special notice of the East-India Company, who, by the way, as appears from a Parliamentary return just issued, have been forwarding specific instructions to Calcutta and Bombay regarding the construction of the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsular lines. In these instructions, given in the form of a running commentary on the contracts entered into, the directors decide on having double lines at once, except on branches. As to the stations and offices to be erected, the despatch expressly insists upon the extravagance practised in England being shunned. It appears also from these documents that instructions were forwarded to India in May last, that so soon as Mr. Simms, the Government engineer, shall have completed his duties in Bombay, he is to proceed to Madras, for the purpose of conducting a survey in that presidency.

#### MEMS. PROVINCIAL.

THE Freemasons' Asylum at Craydon Common is to be consecrated on 1st proximo. — Plans are about to be decided on for draining the town of Epsom and supplying it with good water. — The parish church of Luton, Beds., is about to be provided with gas-fittings. — The Reading Cattle Market Company are shortly to decide on plans for the arrangement and erection of a cattle market-place at Reading. — About 500 tons of stone are now being deposited daily by 800 convicts at Portland Breakwater. The piles are injected with creosote under pressure for preservation. — The members of the Gloucester Archaeological Association on Tuesday week visited the village of Bredon, its old church and camp, &c. — On a recent visit of the Duke of Bedford to the national schools at Tavistock, sixty-four of the tenants of the new cottages erected at Westbridge sent a deputation to his grace, with an address of thanks and gratitude for the boon conferred on them in the possession of such cottages, at rents so low as those charged. These tenants, it appears, with families amounting to 381 persons, had previously occupied about 106 rooms, or, on the average, one and three-quarters to each family, at 3*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* a year of rent; whereas they now possess 320 rooms, or five to each family, with yards, pig-houses, gardens, &c., and good drainage, ventilation, and water, at 3*l.* 18*s.* a year each

\* Creosote, or spirit of tar, is now believed to be the preserver of the human tissues mummified by the Ancient Egyptians as well as by the modern American Indians.